

Testimony for Public Hearing
Labor and Public Employees Committee
Thursday, March 8th, 2018

Valerie Horsley 136 Millpond Road Hamden, CT 06514

Re: H.B.5421 National Popular Vote

Good afternoon Government Administration and Elections (GAE) committee members:

My name is Valerie Horsley from Hamden, and a professor at Yale University. I am the co-founder of the grassroots organization, Action Together Connecticut and a candidate for State Senate District 17. I am not testifying on behalf of Yale or Action Together CT but as a citizen.

I am in support of this bill for the following reasons:

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is an agreement among states to elect the President according to the will of the majority in a manner consistent with the Constitution. 314 million people live in the United States of America and the diversity of our nation is one of our strengths. Yet, the electoral college system does not support the diversity of our nation and emphasizes the voices citizens of some states over others.

Our current system for electing presidents allows citizens of some states to have more voice than citizens of other states. In fact, two-thirds of the 2016 Presidential Campaign was decided in 6 states and 94% of campaign efforts were focused in 12 states. This means that candidates can ignore a large portion of the electorate. I believe that when people feel that their vote will count, voter turnout and participation in our democratic process will increase.

Eleven states have enacted the National Popular Vote into law, including our neighboring states NJ, MA, RI and VT. I hope that you will join me and support HB 5421 so that we can join these innovative leaders in revising the electoral college system for equal participation in our democracy.

Thank you for time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Valerie Horsley, PhD
Action Together CT, Leader; New Haven County Chapter
Associate Professor-- Yale University